



NEWS RELEASE



NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

July 26, 2012, 11:30 a.m. CDT

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Nebraska JIC Daily Update

Highlights

Yesterday's cooler temperatures and higher relative humidity allowed crews to go direct with line construction. While other crews worked to secure and improve existing line. Today crews will focus on improving line, mop-up, patrol and structure protection.

Weather

The weather is forecasted to be warmer and drier through the weekend with possibility of afternoon thunderstorms along with accompanying lightning. Fuels are still very receptive to fire and the possibility for new starts remains elevated.

Strategies

In Divisions A-H and X-Z crews will improve line, mop-up, patrol and provide structure protection. In Division O crews will prep area for burn-out operations scheduled for Friday. Additional resources will be made available for initial attack.

"We currently have sufficient fire resources on the incident. If additional resources are needed local Fire chiefs will put out a call for assistance," said Doug Fox, Region 24 Emergency Management director.

Road Closures

- Highway 12 reopened on July 25, 2012. Nebraska State Patrol recommends motorists use caution when traveling in the area.

Evacuations:

- Volunteer evacuations have been lifted for Meadville and Norden.
- Niobrara River between County Line and Brewer bridge remains closed but is scheduled to reopen on Friday.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: July 20, 2012

Containment: 50 percent, estimate containment July 29, 2012

Cause: Lightning

Acreage: 72,405 total (Fairfield 66,745; Wentworth, 3,278; Hall, 2,382)

Personnel: 480, plus approximately 80 Rural Fire Department personnel

Crews: 7 crews on the fire line

Cooperating Agencies: Brown, Keya Paha and Cherry County Sheriff Offices, State of Nebraska, Ainsworth, Springview, Valentine, and Wood Lake VFDs, Nebraska

National Guard, Nebraska State Fire Marshall, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska Department of Roads, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and American Red Cross

Aviation : Four heavy-lift helicopters, one medium, and one light.

Engines: 38, plus 40 Rural Fire Department engines

Injuries: 3 (minor)

Structures destroyed: 10 and associated outbuildings

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 152

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[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

